

*In the Claims*

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1       1. [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices  
2       by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating  
3       an original order for goods and services for end-use by said  
4       individual employee determine that a resulting invoice  
5       should be paid or not, comprising the steps of:

6           receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog  
7       system from said individual employee a requisition for  
8       goods or services from a vendor;

9           said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing  
10      from said requisition a purchase order;

11       said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
12      submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an  
13      EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said  
14      vendor;

15       receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or  
16      services as one of an electronic invoice and a paper  
17      invoice, said electronic invoice being received for  
18      processing by said enterprise accounting and catalog  
19      system and said paper invoice being received for

20 processing to said enterprise accounting and catalog  
21 system by accounts payable personnel;

22 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for  
23 said goods or services ordered by said individual  
24 employee;

25 storing said invoice image in an image store;

26 keying said image to invoice data;

27 said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
28 communicating by electronic mail an invoice  
29 confirmation request to said individual creating said  
30 original order, said request instructing said  
31 individual employee to log on to said enterprise  
32 accounting and catalog system, including said invoice  
33 data and a link to said invoice image, and specifying  
34 that said invoice is subject to one of negative  
35 confirmation and positive confirmation processing, said  
36 negative confirmation processing including advising  
37 said individual employee via e-mail that said invoice  
38 is confirmed unless specifically not approved by said  
39 individual employee, and said positive confirmation  
40 processing including advising said individual employee  
41 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said  
42 individual employee of approval;

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43       providing at a user workstation a search interface in  
44       said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said  
45       individual employee to enter criteria and have links to  
46       images of invoices that match said criteria be  
47       displayed at said user workstation; and

48       responsive to selection of a link by said individual,  
49       displaying said invoice image for approval by said  
50       individual creating said original order selectively by  
51       said negative confirmation and positive confirmation  
52       processing.

1       2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2       the step of:

3       preparing said invoice images by scanning paper  
4       invoices received from a vendor.

1       3. [Currently amended] The method of claim 2, further  
2       comprising the step of:

3       preparing other of said invoice images by converting  
4       electronic invoices received from a vendor into an  
5       image file representation having the look and feel of a

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6 paper invoice.

1 4. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said  
2 invoice confirmation request advising said individual  
3 employee to process said confirmation as negative  
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 5. [Previously presented] The method of claim 4, said  
2 invoice confirmation request further advising said  
3 individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and  
4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1 6. [Previously presented] The method of claim 5, further  
2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee  
3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of  
4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user  
5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of  
6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual  
7 employee.

1 7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual  
3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices  
4 matching a selection criteria.

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1        8.        [Canceled]

1        9.        [Currently amended] A system for processing invoices  
2        by having the individual employee creating an original order  
3        for goods or services for end use by said individual  
4        determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,  
5        comprising:

6                a front-end requisition and catalog system;

7                a back-end procurement services system;

8                a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

9                an image system and store for storing said scanned  
10                images and serving them to said workstation keyed to  
11                said invoice;

12                a workstation selectively receiving user entry from  
13                said individual employee of a requisition request for  
14                goods or services for end-use by said individual  
15                employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing  
16                images of invoices from said image system and store;  
17                said confirmation request instructing said individual

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18 employee to log on to said back-end system to view and  
19 approve an invoice by a specified one of negative and  
20 positive confirmation processing, said negative  
21 confirmation processing including advising said  
22 individual employee via e-mail that said invoice is  
23 confirmed unless specifically not approved by said  
24 individual employee, and said positive confirmation  
25 processing including advising said individual employee  
26 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said  
27 individual employee of approval;

28 said front-end system selectively receiving said  
29 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding  
30 said requisition requests to said back-end system, and  
31 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end  
32 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

33 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase  
34 orders against said requisitions to a vendor  
35 selectively as one of an electronic and paper purchase  
36 order, receiving and processing invoices electronic  
37 invoices directly from said vendor and paper invoices  
38 as received and processed by accounts payable  
39 personnel, keying invoice images to invoice  
40 information, and processing confirmation requests to  
41 said front-end system for communication to said  
42 workstation for approval by said individual employee

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43 creating said original order.

1 10. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3 executable by a machine to perform a method for processing  
4 invoices by having the individual employee creating an  
5 original order as an end user of a commodity or service  
6 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,  
7 said method comprising:

8 preparing an invoice image;

9 storing said invoice image in an image store;

10 keying said image to invoice data;

11 communicating invoice confirmation request to said  
12 individual employee, said request including said  
13 invoice data and a link to said invoice image;

14 responsive to requester selection of said link,  
15 displaying said invoice image to said individual  
16 employee for approval by said individual employee  
17 creating said original order according to a specified  
18 confirmation process consisting of one of a negative  
19 confirmation process including advising said individual

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20                   employee via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed  
21                   unless specifically not approved by said individual  
22                   employee, and a positive confirmation process including  
23                   advising said individual employee that said invoice  
24                   will be confirmed upon entry by said individual  
25                   employee of approval.

1           11. [Currently amended] A computer program product or  
2           computer program element for processing invoices by having  
3           the individual employee creating an original order for goods  
4           and services for end-use by said individual employee  
5           determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not  
6           according to steps comprising:

7                   receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog  
8                   system from said individual employee a requisition for  
9                   goods or services from a vendor;

10                  said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing  
11                  from said requisition a purchase order;

12                  said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
13                  submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an  
14                  EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said  
15                  vendor;

16 receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or  
17 services as one of an electronic invoice and a paper  
18 invoice, said electronic invoice being received for  
19 processing by said enterprise accounting and catalog  
20 system and said paper invoice being received for  
21 processing to said enterprise accounting and catalog  
22 system by accounts payable personnel;

23 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for  
24 said goods or services ordered by said individual  
25 employee;

26 storing said invoice image in an image store;

27 keying said image to invoice data;

28 said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
29 communicating by electronic mail communicating an  
30 invoice confirmation request to said individual  
31 employee, said request instructing said individual  
32 employee to log on to said enterprise accounting and  
33 catalog system, including said invoice data and a link  
34 to said invoice image, and specifying that said invoice  
35 is subject to one of negative confirmation and positive  
36 confirmation processing, said negative confirmation  
37 processing including advising said individual employee  
38 via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed unless

39           specifically not approved by said individual employee,  
40           and said positive confirmation processing including  
41           advising said individual employee that said invoice  
42           will be confirmed upon entry by said individual  
43           employee of approval;

44           providing at a user workstation a search interface in  
45           said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said  
46           individual employee to enter criteria and have links to  
47           images of invoices that match said criteria be  
48           displayed at said user workstation; and

49           responsive to selection of a link by said individual  
50           employee, displaying said invoice image for approval by  
51           said individual employee creating said original order  
52           selectively by said negative confirmation and positive  
53           confirmation processing.

1       12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2           claim 10, said method further comprising:

3           preparing said invoice images by scanning paper  
4           invoices received from a vendor.

1       13. [Currently amended] The program storage device of

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2 claim 12, said method further comprising:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting  
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an  
5 image file representation having the ~~look and feel~~ of a  
6 paper invoice.

1 14. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said  
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative  
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising  
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end  
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for  
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said  
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of  
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and  
5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said  
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices

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7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said  
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of  
4 invoices matching a selection criteria.

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